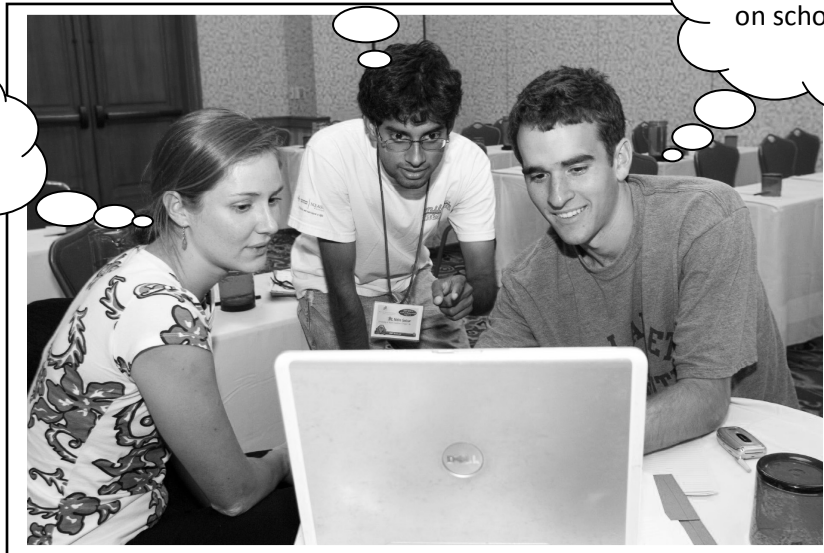


Alumni Resource Guide 2008

Check this out, Nicole! There are stories on the Peace Corps, Green Corps and a bunch more! I even found info on dream careers!

Look, Nitin – I've found great tips on scholarships!

How about this on grad schools Tyler! Awesome!



Thanks to all the alumni who participated in our survey!

Melissa Millage, millage@udall.gov
www.udall.gov



Morris K. Udall Foundation

CIVILITY, INTEGRITY, CONSENSUS

Overview

Welcome to the Udall Foundation's first scholarship alumni resource guide!

In early 2008, we asked all of you to fill out a survey based on your experiences with graduate schools and programs, scholarships, fellowships, and other awards, and careers. More than 100 of you responded, and the results are collected and presented in the following pages.

More than anything, we want you to be able to contact alumni doing the things you want to do. You'll find names and email addresses for alumni available to talk about specific grad schools, law schools, medical schools and/or specific academic programs in the U.S. and abroad; we've listed the names of alums willing to be contacted about additional undergraduate and graduate scholarships, fellowships, and grants; you'll find alumni who have been involved in specific post-graduate opportunities like the Peace Corps or Green Corps or who are willing to talk to you about their specific job or career.

By the fall of 2009, our hope is to turn this guide into a usable, online resource on the alumni website: to add new fields to alumni profiles that capture similar data, use the data to create an area of the website specifically for post-graduate tips, and, finally, to enable the information gathered to be searchable and much more interactive.

Until then, we wanted to make sure the results of this first survey were collected and made available to you as a resource.

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Graduate Schools

[Alpha by school, then program (unless noted, information listed is for master's degree programs). When given, we'll also include any specific projects alums were/are working on and how they like what they're doing.]

General Tips

We've compiled a list of tips from alums that can be applied to grad school searching in general (rather than about a specific program – those tips are included in school/program details). We hope you'll find them helpful.

- ❖ *Go visit the school and talk with the faculty that you are interested in working with before you apply. I felt that this really helped because I could also get a feel for the department. Often students don't see the school until after they've been accepted and they go there on a visitation weekend. Rather than wasting that energy on trying to decide on too many schools during your last year of undergrad, take time to visit the summer before you start applying (if you have the time and money). The spring of your senior year can get very busy anyway, and loading too many grad school visits on top of your already busy load can get stressful.*
- ❖ *Also, email potential advisors at the schools you apply to as soon as possible. This will greatly increase your chances.*
- ❖ *Make sure you choose your advisor/s carefully.*
- ❖ *Make sure you find an advisor that is a good match if you are in a PhD program.*
- ❖ *I recommend trying to talk with individual professors and/or current students focusing on what you're interested in.*
- ❖ *Figure out what you actually want to do before you go to grad school.*
- ❖ *Contact professors of interest directly!*
- ❖ *Apply to lots of schools; visit as many as you can, make sure your personality will mesh with your advisor.*
- ❖ *Make sure you meet lots of people in your program, and find out if there are professors working within or with that program that could be a mentor-type advisor.*
- ❖ *Think long and hard what you want to do before entering a PhD program, especially if the department is small. Try seeing what program alumni are doing now if possible.*
- ❖ *Visit! Attend classes! Meet the faculty (in person or via email)!*
- ❖ *If you're looking for practical experience, spend a few more years working (more than 2) before you go back to school.*

In the U.S.

American University

Film and Media

Daniel Jones, dandennis@gmail.com

School has been a very valuable addition to my life experience, and a good place to stretch my skills and talents. Gain work in the field before considering a degree in higher education. Work in the field of visual communications helps you to better understand your goals, passions, and limitations in a way that graduate school cannot.

Natural Resources and Sustainable Development

Suzanne Hunt, suzannehunt@huntwines.com

California Institute of Technology

Chemical Engineering (PhD)

Jill Craven, cravenjill@gmail.com

Chemistry (PhD)

David Long, DavidAlexanderLong@gmail.com

I am working on the OCO (Orbiting Carbon Observatory) project (in a minor role at present). The project will use a satellite to make ultra precise measurements of global CO2 levels. The more undergrad research you can do the better.

Environmental Science and Engineering (PhD)

Nicole Smith Downey, nicolevdowney@gmail.com

Cornell University

American Indian Studies, Natural Resources (PhD)

Scott Perez, sp287@cornell.edu

My personal experience here has been great. Lots of freedom in research and teaching.

Regional Planning

Peter Rizzo, pcrizzo@gmail.com

The Planning Department at Cornell University is quite strong in the policy arena, and so I am very pleased with my choice to study here. The faculty is highly experienced and in tune with students' interests.

Duke University

Environment and Earth Sciences (PhD)

Melissa Kenny, m.a.kenneyphd@gmail.com

Environmental Management

Drew McConville, drew03@alum.dartmouth.org

Great profs, overall, and I really like my fellow students. Good opportunities to branch out with classes at law school and public policy school (both very highly regarded). Having the chance to work with the Nicholas Institute has been particularly beneficial, given my interest in policy. A lot depends on your particular interest. Duke has a very strong coastal program.

Harvard University

Arts and Sciences

David Duncan, david.duncan@cantab.net

Musicology

Aaron Allen, aaron.s.allen@gmail.com

Louisiana State University

Oceanography and Coastal Sciences

Terry McCloskey, tmcclo1@lsu.edu

Megan Westmeyer, megan_blythe@hotmail.com

This is a great Oceanography program, though your experience will be deeply impacted by your choice of advisor, as with any science graduate school program.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Environmental Engineering

Kelly Doyle, kdoyl04@gmail.com

Management

Ryan Buckley, rbuckley@cal.berkeley.edu

Ohio State University

Agricultural, Environmental
And Development Economics

Matt Woerman, matt.woerman@gmail.com

It's been a great experience. Environmental economics is a field that really helps to put the environmental movement in the context of policy decisions and the bigger picture, which I think is extremely important to consider.

Princeton

Public Affairs

Will Durbin, willdurbin@yahoo.com

Overall, I like it. I'm studying international development with an environmental focus. The school is focused more on international relations than development, but the resources here are terrific, especially since the school is free!

Purdue University

Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

Cristina Carbajo, cmcarbajo@gmail.com

It is really different going to a big school, but I feel like I was prepared to come here. Also, it's REALLY COLD!

Stanford University

Civil and Environmental Engineering, Atmosphere

Bethany Ehlmann, bethanyehlmann@gmail.com

I'm in my first year of the M.S. program, which is course-work only (it's a one-year degree). I'm learning a lot! I plan to stay for my PhD, but I've been frustrated by the lack of energy "people" who can take on PhD students here. From my experience, it's VERY difficult to get into the highly technical research groups if you're not already associated with those departments. Thus, I'm looking to do something that focuses on the "big picture" of energy.

University of Arkansas

Biological Sciences

Lara Douglas, (lara1114@aol.com)

I've been studying rattlesnake physiological ecology for four years. Field work is very time-intensive and doesn't leave much opportunity for outside work or volunteering.

University of California-Berkeley

Goldman School of Public Policy

Laura Wisland, lwisland@gmail.com

Environmental Science, Policy,
and Management (Society & Environment division)

Erin Condit-Bergren, erin.acb@gmail.com

Environmental Engineering

Bret Strogen, bret@ce.berkeley.edu

Berkeley is a wonderful place to live, and to be educated (especially in this dept). Anyone can find a great group of friends and activities that they'll enjoy, and an education and network that will certainly help in the future.

University of Colorado

Hydrology and Environmental Fluid Mechanics

Laurel Larsen, LaurelOak@gmail.com

*Excellent! There is quite a diversity of interdisciplinary water research here at CU, and plenty of opportunities to collaborate with the USGS, NOAA, and NCAR, all while living in an outdoorsy, environmentally conscious community. To get a *really* good education here, you need to take the initiative, but there is no dearth of opportunities.*

University of Connecticut

Anthropology

Lena Samsonenko, xipholena@gmail.com

This is only my second semester in a grad program, so I'm fairly new to it, but so far I have learned a great deal and am overall happy with the program. Aside with some frustrating advising issues, my experience has been a positive and extremely educational one.

University of Georgia

Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources

Monica Watkins, mhmoss@uga.edu

Good financial support. Excellent shared coursework with School of Ecology and Plant Biology. Large program, industry and research focused. Hard to get individual attention. Not great for idealists.

University of Kansas

Sociology

Shane McCall, shanemccall@gmail.com

I did like some of the concepts that I learned in Sociology. However, I did not like the focus on qualitative research and theory. I would have rather been in a more quantitative program.

University of Michigan

Public Policy

Brittany Fox, britfox@gmail.com

Get referrals to work at Deloitte--they are focusing on increasing referrals and were named by Business Week as the #1 Place to Start Your Career in 2007. I would be happy to refer any Udall Scholars to Deloitte and talk to them about environmentally-related opportunities at the firm.

University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

Environmental Engineering

Greg LeFevre, ghlefevre@gmail.com

I just started here...so not too sure I can help, but yes, this has been a good experience thus far.

University of Montana

Social Work

Lauren Caldwell, grizzled@mac.com

Combining Social welfare and Environmental welfare studies. I have loved my path from Biology and Ecology to the social side of things. My program has been wonderful - very flexible and challenging.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

PhD

Tierney Brosius, tierneyberger@hotmail.com

University of North Carolina

Public Policy

Sanya Carley, sanyacar@hotmail.com

Quite mixed but I am rather positive about my experiences.

University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

City and Regional Planning

Audrey Stewart, audrey.stew@gmail.com

It's more time consuming than I ever expected.

University of Wisconsin - Madison

Energy Policy and Urban Planning

Sanya Carley, sanyacar@hotmail.com

Geography and Water Resources Management

Julia Ferguson, jkferguson@wisc.edu

Grad school is tough all around, but the Nelson Institute is a fantastic place to learn and network with a ton of people interested in environmental sciences and policy.

University of Wyoming

Botany

Grace Kostel, prairie_soliton@yahoo.com

Yale University

Dept. of Environmental Engineering

Laura Sima, laura.sima@yale.edu

Just started. Small program, so not as many different projects but lots of attention is given to each student. Also there are so few students that every professor wants to work with you - which can be a big advantage in graduate school.

Forestry & Environmental Studies (FES)

Anton Chiono, anton.chiono@yale.edu

Excellent! FES is tremendous!

FES-Environmental Management

Linus Chen, Linus_Cello@yahoo.com

Yale- ok, class not too rigorous. Professors focus more on PhD students than Masters.

FES-Environmental Management

Caroline Howe, caroline.howe@aya.yale.edu

It is an incredible place, with really devoted faculty, really amazing students, and really inspirational visitors, guest lecturers and fellows. It is a really broad program with a lot of flexibility, which is definitely an amazing opportunity, if students are looking for more structure or guidance, it may not be a perfect fit.

FES-Environmental Management

Paula Randler, paula.randler@yale.edu

Love it, but a little theoretical.

Outside the U.S.

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (MPH); London School of Economics (MSc Health Economics)

Stacey Kowal-Podmore, staceypodmore@gmail.com

Try for the Marshall Scholarship for graduate school; travel abroad as much as possible; get involved in the communities near your schools (not just school sponsored activities).

Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB)

Kristin Pederson, kristin.pederson@gmail.com

Excellent. I am really enjoying the trans-disciplinary nature of the program and its focus on hands-on learning. UMB also has good programs in English in development studies and international environmental issues.

Oxford University

Alex Dewar, adewar@gmail.com

Generally positive. Oxford is quite a change from the US and it requires a lot of adapting, as in things aren't very organized or transparent here. However, it is a great cosmopolitan community and there are wonderful academic resources here. I would say it is best to attend Oxford through a scholarship program. It's extremely expensive here if paying from the US.

Matt King, mdk1719@gmail.com

It has been outstanding. It's the perfect experience for those looking to "bridge the gap" between policymakers and scientists. By learning about the technologies and science involved with climate change, as well as the social aspects (policy, business, NGOs and other non-state actors, etc.), we are truly covering a broad spectrum of information and getting a quality education. It is a pretty intense program, but you definitely get out of it what you put in - I pretty much do nothing but read and go to the pubs! Go for it - getting into Oxford is not as hard as you may think (or at least, as hard as I thought it was going to be, coming from a relatively faceless state university).

Katharine Wilkinson, Katharine.wilkinson@gmail.com

University of Cambridge

Engineering for Sustainable Development

Corinna Kester, corinna.kester@gmail.com

Cathy Kunkel, cathykunkel@gmail.com

Geography

Meg Matthews, meg.matthews@gmail.com

It was a difficult, challenging year. I enjoyed living abroad and really liked my fieldwork on water policy between the U.S. and Mexico, but there are definitely things I wish I'd known in advance about the English school system.

Marilyn Waite, Marilyn.waite@gmail.com

University of Cambridge, St. Catharine's College

Justin Bangs, jbangs@cadmusgroup.com

Extremely positive! My graduate degree made a significant difference in getting an advanced position rather than something at an entry level.

Universiteit Utrecht, The Netherlands

Jessica Wade-Murphy, j_wade_m@excite.com

Fair teaching component, good research component. Other Alums who want to be paleoecologists? Get in touch and we can talk.

Law Schools

General Tips:

- ❖ *My understanding is that grades and LSAT scores are the most important factors in admission.*
- ❖ *Study hard for the LSAT and spend a lot of time on your personal statement.*
- ❖ *Apply early to law school; be sure you really want to be a lawyer.*
- ❖ *Law school might not be good for a lot of people because it is all about rankings and test scores. However, if you work hard you will have a good chance of success.*
- ❖ *Law school is probably not the best way to help the environment. There is a small niche market for lawyers working to support the environment but generally speaking, law school (and to a lesser degree the legal profession) is probably not worth the stress, loans, neuroses, and obscene work load uniformly imposed upon its well-meaning victims.*

Columbia

Melissa Brandt, melissan@alum.berkeley.edu

Emory

Linus Chen, Linus_Cello@yahoo.com

HarvardDavid Duncan, david.duncan@cantab.netAndrew Klaber, aklaber@law.harvard.edu*Terrific. I am always around inspiring people who push me to be my best.*Emily Whitten, emilyla@gmail.com*Harvard's environmental law program is growing. They have a few great professors, and they're focused on bringing more in. I really loved learning about environmental law. My engineering background has been really helpful. If you're an engineer, people assume you want to do patent law, but environmental law is a good option.*Laura Thoms, lthoms77@hotmail.com*At the time, the law school had an overly corporate emphasis, which I understand has since changed. The school did not have a huge selection of environmental classes, but a degree from HLS will certainly open a lot of doors regardless.***Lewis & Clark**Brian Pasko, brian.pasko@gmail.com**University of Arizona**Julia Jolley, jljolley@email.arizona.edu*I'm just a first year but so far, so good.***University of California**Jessica Yarnall, jessicayarnall@gmail.com*I spent my first summer at Earthjustice, international division, and clerked at a local environmental law firm, Shute Mihaly. I am currently in private practice with a general litigation focus but hope to return to public sector environmental law in the future.***UCLA**Natalie Bridgeman, nataliebridgeman@yahoo.com**University of Kansas**Shane McCall, shanemccall@gmail.com**University of New Mexico**Kristina G. Fisher, kristinagraysfisher@lycos.com*It's an amazing school - small classes, fantastic professors, and a very progressive student community committed to making positive change in the world. The Natural Resources and Indian Law certificate programs are world class. I highly recommend UNM for law school, and encourage Udall scholars to consider it.***Law Schools –Outside the U.S.****University of Cambridge, UK**David Duncan, david.duncan@cantab.net**Universidad San Francisco de Quito (Ecuador)**Kristen Hite, hiteka@hotmail.com*Obtaining a graduate degree from another country afforded a unique perspective on environment and development. While the caliber of graduate programs varies tremendously among institutions abroad, I believe that a foreign degree has opened doors for me.*

Medical Schools

General Tips:

- ❖ *The idea of a "premed track" is obsolete. Study and do what fascinates you, not what is expected of you. AND WORK OR TRAVEL OR BOTH BEFORE YOU START MED SKOOL!!!*

Harvard

Anjana Sharma, anjana.e.sharma@gmail.com

Exciting, scintillating, frustrating, challenging, isolating, inspiring. I love going to school every day.



UC Irvine

Rachelle Callenback, callenback@gmail.com

Supportive staff and peers, great program!



Additional Scholarships, Fellowships, and Grants

General Tips:

- ❖ *Look around. There are many opportunities.*
- ❖ *Apply for as many fellowships as possible!*
- ❖ *Apply, Apply, Apply! It can't hurt! and reach out to those that have won the awards. They are usually very helpful.*

Churchill

Cathy Kunkel, cathykunkel@gmail.com

The Churchill Scholarship is great, but very limited in scope (math or science at Cambridge).

Community Forestry Research Fellowship

Scott Perez, sp287@cornell.edu

Wonderful group for anyone whose research is community based. Do your homework on the group and be yourself. Let your personality show through the application.

Compton Mentor Fellowship

Kartikeya Singh, kartikeya.singh07@gmail.com

Your school has to be invited to send nominees. Please visit www.comptonmentorfellowship.org. It has been amazing. Doing my own creative individually composed project with the guidance of a mentor. An incredible opportunity to take what I learned as an undergraduate and apply it to real world scenarios.

Doris Duke Conservation Fellowship

Julia Ferguson, jferguson@wisc.edu

The application process was actually very satisfying for me, it helped me center and focus my career and life goals. The real work for the fellowship doesn't kick in until the summer.

EPA Star

Linus Chen, Linus_Cello@yahoo.com

EPA Star focuses more on PhDs than Masters

Nicole Downey, nicolevdowney@gmail.com

EPA - Very good program, offers 3 years of support plus spending money which gives you some independence in grad school.

Fulbright Scholar Program

Tierney Brosius, tierneyberger@hotmail.com

I'm waiting on an answer currently but the application process was very fulfilling even if I'm not selected. Send out a note on the list serve. I received a large amount of help from alums.

Jill Craven, cravenjill@gmail.com

My research project is not what I expected, but that is ok because I feel that living abroad is more important than the research anyway. So far I've been able to travel to Montreal and the interior of British Columbia (in addition to living in Vancouver). The nice thing about my work is that I get to travel to different industries all around BC so this spring I will be taking a bunch of little field trips. Also, I have joined a club on the UBC campus that does science outreach in rural areas, so I get to go to the interior, the Yukon territory and Vancouver Island to do volunteering. It's awesome! Contact faculty in the country that you are thinking about applying to. Get them to endorse your project and write a letter of support to the Fulbright Selection Committee. If you are applying to do an independent research project, make your project unique to the country or region that you are applying to.

Matt King, mdk1719@gmail.com

The Fulbright focuses on applicants' academic credentials more than the Rhodes and Marshall do - heavy emphasis is placed on the two letters of reference being from academic mentors, supervisors, etc. as opposed to someone familiar with extracurricular activities. With that said, Fulbright does want its recipients to be cultural ambassadors, so your goal should be to let others know why you are going to represent the United States well overseas (and why you want to do it in the first place). Read UK newspapers and follow the BBC, too, if possible - it definitely helps to be familiar with current British events. They have been excellent to work with, both in preparing for my overseas experience (getting visas, connecting me with Americans that are already in the UK, etc.) and for taking care of any questions or needs I may have while over here. They're going through an organizational shift at the moment, but I know they'll emerge from it after this year bigger and better than ever.

Jessie McComb, jessiemccomb@gmail.com

The Fulbright was an amazing experience and helped direct me on my current path. Make sure that your project can only be done in the country you're applying for and you are completely qualified for it. Ensure that you have a good knowledge of the current situation in country and you're prepared to support that with citations and evidence.

Tristan Nunez, tristan.nunez@gmail.com

The Fulbright, of course, is a very flexible scholarship to pursue independent research overseas, and I don't see how anyone can argue with getting paid to explore and learn in another country for a year. I certainly won't - I loved it. For the Fulbright, it pays to make connections with a host organization in the host country well before the deadline.

Laurel Oak, LaurelOak@gmail.com

Jessica Wade-Murphy, j_wade_m@excite.com

Excellent for personal growth and for developing a lasting relationship with the country (Colombia). Make a concerted effort to find a reliable, supportive sponsor in the country.

Jessica Yarnall, jessicayarnall@gmail.com

Peru, 2002-2003--worked with environmental law NGO called sociedad peruana de derecho ambiental (SPDA) and looked at public participation in the decision making process surrounding mining. It was a great year! Apply early, get lots of feedback on your application from fellow students and professors.

Gates Millennium Scholarship

Justin Bangs, jbangs@cadmusgroup.com

Receiving the Gates made my graduate education possible. Like the Udall, I gained access to a powerful and focused Scholar network which has helped in professional work, and been personally satisfying. Apply, Apply, Apply! It can't hurt! and reach out to those that have won the awards. They are usually very helpful.

Will Durbin, willdurbin@yahoo.com

I was a finalist but didn't get it. Make sure you can explain that Cambridge is the only place you can do your proposed studies. Also, they may prefer younger applicants.

Corinna Kester, corinna.kester@gmail.com

Meg Matthews, meg.matthews@gmail.com

The Gates scholarship was a wonderful experience -- I met a lot of motivated, interesting students from a range of fields around the world. When I applied, at least, the Gates panel was most interested in how your work would impact the world. If you haven't considered the broader social implications of your plans, it would be worth taking the time to contemplate that should you receive an interview.

Henry Luce Scholarship

Chessie Thacher, chessiethacher@gmail.com

Wonderful but also challenging. I lived in Kunming, Yunnan Province, and conducted environmental research throughout southwestern China and across the high Tibetan Plateau. The intuitive basics...do your research on the scholarship, make sure a year living abroad in Asia is for you, give yourself time to prepare an excellent application and essay, and, if you proceed, be relaxed at your interviews, during which a variety of hypothetical, political and personal questions are discussed.

Hertz Foundation Scholarship

Laurel Oak, LaurelOak@gmail.com

The Hertz scholars are an inspiring and humbling group of people, and the symposia and retreats associated with that fellowship have greatly enriched my degree experience. Perfect the essay portion of the application -- good communications skills are in high demand in science.

Marshall Scholarship

Andrew Klaber, aklaber@law.harvard.edu

Outstanding. I currently serve on the Marshall and Truman Alumni Association Boards. It is a lot of work to apply, but very much worth it.

Stacey Kowal-Podmore, staceypodmore@gmail.com

Wonderful cross cultural experience; amazing networking; life-changing academic experiences. Stay true to your ultimate career goals. Your activities and experience should be geared towards how you plan to make a difference in the world (and not towards how they look on an application).

Lena Samsonenko, lena.samsonenko@uconn.edu

I was a finalist in my district for both the Rhodes and Marshall scholarships. I did not get either scholarship, but I made it to the level of the interviews, which is the last step of the process. It was a very intense, difficult (work load-wise), and often stressful experience, but I learned an incredible amount in the process, and I would highly recommend others to apply for these fellowships. They are extremely competitive, but the competition itself is well worth it because you gain greater insight into yourself and you get the chance to meet some pretty fantastic people. It's not necessarily the destination, but rather the journey of the application process that makes all the work worthwhile. Be yourself! Sincerely pour yourself into your application, be honest, and let your passion shine through. Whatever happens, let it happen without becoming attached to the end result.

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

Bethany Corcoran, bethany.corcoran@gmail.com

They pay for all of my tuition plus half of my insurance and I get \$2500/month - I couldn't ask for more!!! There's no way I would be able to afford grad school at a place like Stanford without these fellowships, so I am very grateful for them! The application process was also very helpful, as they (like the Udall process) forced me to narrow in even more on what I want to do (although, I still need to narrow in more). Also, I have been amazed at how much more attractive these fellowships make me to potential PhD advisors - I really feel like I'm looked upon far more favorably b/c I bring my own funding with me (this is huge!). I have much more freedom to do what I want (despite my frustrations with lack of options) as a result.

Kelly Doyle, kdoyle04@gmail.com

I was able to continue my studies for an additional year and go on 3 trips to Africa to do my fieldwork. Start early.

Lara Douglas, lara1114@aol.com

Bethany Ehlmann, bethanyehlmann@gmail.com

Superb! Think hard about what motivates you and why you want to do what you propose.

Cathy Kunkel, cathykunkel@gmail.com

Greg LeFevre, ghlefevre@gmail.com

The NSF GRF is extremely competitive, but very much worth the reward (\$30k/yr for 3 yrs+tuition) and the recognition. Start early and have other people examine your work.

National Water Resources Institute

Melissa Kenney, M.A.KenneyPHD@gmail.com

Pay special attention when writing the cover letter.

Presidential Management Intern/Fellow

Linus Chen, Linus_Cello@yahoo.com

Ok, not as vibrant a networking group. Have a scientific publication; catchy opening line to attract reader's attention. Presidential Management Intern/Fellow.

Rhodes

Alex Dewar, adewar@gmail.com

Nicole Novak, nicole.l.novak@gmail.com

I just received the Rhodes Scholarship in November of 2007 and will be leaving for Oxford in September of 2008.

Katharine Wilkinson, Katharine.wilkinson@gmail.com

Rotary International Scholarships

Kristen Hite, hiteka@hotmail.com

Note: I may not be especially helpful, as I received my scholarship more than 5 years ago. Great opportunity to fund graduate studies abroad. Rotary scholarships allow recipients a large degree of flexibility in selecting a geographic location and academic program.

Kristin Pederson, kristin.pederson@gmail.com

Very good. It is less competitive than the above scholarships, but generous and available to nearly everyone. Should not be overlooked when researching possibilities for financing grad school abroad. Get in contact with your local/school Rotary club early, and talk to someone who has gotten the scholarship before, as the Rotarians often don't know all the details.

Anjana Sharma, anjana.e.sharma@gmail.com

It taught me so much about international health and development issues. It's very district-specific and bureaucratic, but worth it for the freedom of the funding. Get a Rotarian to help you out with the application process.

Switzer Scholarship

Laura Wisland, lwisland@gmail.com

Truman Scholarship Foundation

Justin Bangs, jbangs@cadmusgroup.com

Lauren Caldwell, grizzled@mac.com

I have been extremely grateful for receiving the Truman scholarship. Truly beyond the monetary support, I met some of the most amazing people I have ever known through this experience. Honestly, be yourself and be passionate. You cannot win without truly believing that you want to dedicate your life to public service.

Alex Dewar, adewar@gmail.com

Very positive. These scholarships have introduced me to some really good communities and access to all sorts of opportunities. It's important to maintain a balance of strong academic achievement with other activities, especially those that are public service oriented. Otherwise, advice is best given on an individual basis, I think.

Jared Duval, jared.duval@gmail.com

The Truman has been a wonderful experience, providing guidance on grad school and paths to public service options as well as a vibrant network of alums always willing to help. Do mock interviews beforehand!

Kristina G. Fisher, kristinagrayfisher@lycos.com

The benefits of the Truman Scholarship are very similar to the Udall - the best part is getting to interact with so many other people working for social and environmental justice. The Truman also allows you to spend a summer in DC in this remarkable community of people, interning for a government agency or nonprofit. It's well worth doing - and as a Udall, you have a better chance of being selected than most!

Andrea Garfinkel-Castro, agargonz@yahoo.com

Interview for Truman is very intense and needs preparation, no matter how good you are at interviewing. The policy proposal is critical...

Corinna Kester, corinna.kester@gmail.com

Andrew Lee, Andrew@andrewlee.com

see <http://andrewlee.com/2007/12/02/student-advice-about-the-truman-scholarship/>

Truman Scholarship continued ...

Jenny Magill, jenny.magill@gmail.com

I am a 2006 Truman Scholar and have really enjoyed being a part of that program. I spent this past summer in Washington, DC, through the Truman Summer Institute program. I learned a lot and had a wonderful time! Start early on the application, take your time on the policy proposal and pick something you are passionate about, don't worry about the interview until you make the finalist cut, talk to former scholars and pick their brains! :-)

Tristan Nunez, tristan.nunez@gmail.com

The Truman Fdt does a great job of bringing its scholars together, providing them a summer internship experience, and providing funding and guidance for graduate school. Hmmm ... for the Truman, focus on the policy statement during the application, and on relaxing if you make it to the interviews. Choose something you are really active in and believe in to focus on - there are too many professional scholarship seeker types going after scholarships like the Truman, so people who are authentically dedicated to public service should make sure they stand out.

Eli Zigas, eli.zigas@gmail.com

Applying for the Truman was a very worthwhile experience in and of itself. Beyond the scholarship money, the Truman network, like the Udall network, is a great resource. I have lots of tips -- too many to write out. I'd be happy to talk to anyone interested.



Service-Oriented Job Opportunities

AmeriCorps

Lauren Caldwell, grizzled@mac.com

*AmeriCorps*VISTA member in Pablo, MT - starting a Farm to College Program at Salish Kootenai College on the Flathead Indian Reservation.*

Jared Cole jaredadamcole@gmail.com

Both AmeriCorps and Teach For America have their highs and lows. Much of it depends on the location and specifics of your placement. AmeriCorps provides very little to live on, but you do get a fair amount of flexibility and free time.

Rachel Cook, rmariec@gmail.com

Summer Vista with Rural Action (Communities Team), a non-profit dedicated to environmental, economical, and social equality in southeastern, Appalachian Ohio.

Lauren DuCharme, la.ducharme@gmail.com

I worked VERY briefly with SCA (Student Conservation Association which is a part of AmeriCorps)... I think that if I had been able to continue it would have been a rewarding program... but not all the projects are that way. There are so many options though that it's great for finding something that really fits you.

Jensen Gelfond, gelfondj@dickinson.edu

I did a summer with the Student Conservation Association (receiving an AmeriCorps stipend) doing trail construction in Alaska with the U.S. Forest Service. It was a fantastic experience, though I would have made more money if I had directly applied for the job.

Tressa Gibbard, tressag@yahoo.com

I worked for the NV Conservation Corps from 11/04 to 4/06 doing everything from invasive weed removal to forest fuels thinning, to trail building & maintenance, to field research.

AmeriCorps continued...

Jenny Magill, jenny.magill@gmail.com

I am currently serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer with a wonderful nonprofit, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) in Nashville. I do public relations and other capacity-building work for them, including fundraising, volunteer recruitment, and publicity. I LOVE it!!

Jenny Vazquez, jvazquez11@gmail.com

Just started, but has been wonderful so far.

Environment America

Jensen Gelfond, gelfondj@dickinson.edu

Environment America: I was offered a Fellowship position, which I just accepted a few days ago. I am really excited, as the work looks to be fantastic and this is my first job out of undergrad.

Equal Justice Works (part of AmeriCorps)

Linus Chen Linus_Cello@yahoo.com

Good, only minimal exposure since I only received a grant (not an Equal Justice Works fellow)

Global Water

Bret Strogen, bret@cc.berkeley.edu

Short term volunteer project in Guatemala. Very enjoyable and flexible - was able to schedule everything (including flight) with ~2 weeks notice.

Green Corps

Jensen Gelfond, gelfondj@dickinson.edu

Green Corps: had a fantastic interview weekend and ultimately did not get selected (and decided I wanted to work for Environment America anyway). The weekend was a great peek into how GC and the PIRGs work.

NSF GK-12

Tierney Brosius tierneyberger@hotmail.com

This is a great program that focuses on bringing science mentors into the classroom. I'm looking at developing an international program with this funding source.

Peace Corps

Leslie Coleman, leslie.smith.coleman@gmail.com

I am currently an Environment Peace Corps Volunteer in The Gambia (West Africa); I will be here until November 2009. I work with the government's Department of Parks and Wildlife Management, helping out on various projects and trying to build the capacity of the staff. I also plan on getting involved with the Ballabu Conservation Project, a large-scale ecotourism venture that involves several local communities; a solar fruit-drying project in my village for small enterprise development; and the Gambian All-Schools Tree Nursery Competition.

Darren Legge, Darren.Legge@gmail.com

I am leaving in September to do Environmental Education somewhere in sub-Saharan Africa.

Shane McCall, shanemcall@gmail.com

I served in Jamaica from 2005 through 2007. It was a rich experience. Some of the bad parts included extreme boredom, harassment, purposelessness, and difficult living conditions. However, these things were overwhelmed by the positive aspects of Peace Corps. These include flexibility, huge amounts of free time, little supervision, ability to understand another culture, travel opportunities, meeting other Peace Corps volunteers, and being able to have more perspective about what it means to be an American.

PIRGs

Jessie McComb, jessiemccomb@gmail.com

It was challenging but I met some great people and learned quite a bit. If you want a really thorough experience though I'd recommend a different program.

Brittany Fox, britfox@gmail.com

Students for PIRGIM at the University of Michigan.

Jensen Gelfond, gelfondj@dickinson.edu

PIRGs: I did not directly apply for a PIRG job, but did apply for work with the Fund for Public Interest Research and Environment America (both PIRG offshoots) for after school. I ended up getting offered an Assistant Canvass Director with the Fund but ultimately turned it down.

Daniel Jones, dandennis@gmail.com

Working with NYPIRG was really great. They really give you a chance to take a lead, define the kinds of issues you want to take on, and determine how you want to take them on. Few large orgs give such an opportunity to undergraduate students.

Audrey Stewart, audrey.stew@gmail.com

Canvassing was my "Gateway" environmental job. I recommend it.

Laura Wies, laura_wies@yahoo.com

Not positive, though I learned a lot. I think a very limited number of people would enjoy that environment.

Sierra Student Coalition, Center for Progressive Leadership

Jared Duval, jared.duval@gmail.com

Directed the SSC for two years, served as a mentor for CPL's New Leaders Program in '07.

Teach for America

Jared Cole, jaredadamcole@gmail.com

Both AmeriCorps and Teach For America have their highs and lows. Much of it depends on the location and specifics of your placement. Teach For America offers great salary and benefits for a non-profit experience, but there is very little flexibility and even less free time. Both programs can be extremely frustrating, but you will make good friends with other people going through the experience.

Cullen Naumoff, cullen.naumoff@gmail.com

It is like no other experience I have participated in before. Everyday of the 5 months I have been teaching has been a challenging adventure! I have grown in ways I have never been stretched before. It's hard work, but I am truly enjoying my experience!

Jessica Friedman, jessica.l.friedman@gmail.com

I've loved my experience with TFA and think it's given me a much richer picture of the MANY social problems in our country today. It's also given me an opportunity to effect change in a tangible, measurable way.



Careers

General Tips:

- ❖ *Find your passion and follow it. Talk to your professors and other professionals about it and find work in the general field. This work will turn into contacts; contacts turn into opportunities.*
- ❖ *Life should always be your dream job. Find the joy in whatever you are doing. If you can't find it, do something else. Don't worry where the path will end up. Enjoy the journey.*
- ❖ *Just because you are interested in environmental studies does not mean you need to pursue a traditional career path in the field. Do what you love, and bring your passion for the environment to whatever it is you decide to.*
- ❖ *Err on the side of audacity!*
- ❖ *Take internships and don't be shy about asking to be considered for full time employment.*
- ❖ *Expand your network! Reach out to the people you would really like to be working for/with. And money talks -- if you can bring in outside funding for your research, you will be sought after in the job market.*

Abt Associates

Julia McGuire, mcguire.julia@gmail.com

My job is not my "dream" job (I'm not sure what that is yet!!), but I work (in a field that I feel is important) for a firm (Abt Associates) that consults to EPA. We work with many EPA (and other) databases to analyze industry trends, environmental indicators, and MANY other aspects of the US environment.

Aid to Artisans

Jessie McComb, jessiemccomb@gmail.com

I currently work for Aid to Artisans, an international development organization that works with artisans in developing nations to help preserve their livelihoods, cultures and environments. I am a Coordinator of programs and new business in Asia which means that I design and implement programs throughout the Asian continent. I learned about the company when I was a Fulbright fellow in India doing research on how the global market is impacting traditional culture.

Arizona State University

Andrea Garfinkel-Castro, agargonz@yahoo.com

I have begun to move in the direction of planning work in the U.S.-Mexico border region. I am doing paid research and co-authoring a paper with an ASU professor on this topic (cross-border collaboration between planners). It is only the beginning, I expect to be a strong force behind the installation of a binational planning institution over the next 10-20 years.

Black Hills State University, South Dakota

Grace Kostel, prairie_soliton@yahoo.com

I work as a botanist and herbarium manager for Black Hills State University in western South Dakota.

Cadmus Group, Inc.

Justin Bangs, jbangs@cadmusgroup.com

I am in an excellent position which I am very happy about for my age. I work for an environmental consulting firm called The Cadmus Group, Inc. I consult on environmental issues ranging from Green buildings to indoor air quality and radon for federal agencies, state and local government, and the private sector. Graduate experience was critical in gaining my current position. Go to graduate school as soon as possible. Also, don't be afraid of the private, for profit sector. It can be highly efficient and you can do very interesting work.

California Attorney General's Office

Jessica Yarnall, yarnallj@hotmail.com

Earthjustice International Division. I want to focus on international environmental law (litigation). Short term strategy is to get general litigation skills to become a skilled applicant for these jobs. Most public interest/sector jobs like you to be trained first and you aren't trained coming straight out of law school. Not sure if this strategy will pay off yet--ask me in a few years!

EcoSecurities

Jessica Wade-Murphy, j_wade_m@excite.com

EcoSecurities plc., a company in the business of sourcing, developing and trading emission reduction credits. I manage the development and use of methodologies for emission reductions calculation in the company. The focus of my work is Clean Development Mechanism projects. I did an internship during my M.Sc. in The Netherlands. Get experience through an internship or thesis; the market is maturing and companies in the emission reductions sector are not as willing to accept starters with no relevant experience.

Environmental Defense

Kristen Hite, khite@environmentaldefense.org

Substantively, yes. I work as an attorney in the international program of Environmental Defense, engaged primarily in advocacy efforts to leverage international investments in support of sustainable development. I work with Congress, government agencies, academics, and a broad coalition of organizations in furtherance of this effort. Work routinely includes writing policies, drafting legislation, case-based advocacy highlighting problematic/unsustainable projects, working with communities to enforce international safeguards and standards, and offering formal testimony/comments to agencies in support of social and environmental reforms. If you have career aspirations in the nonprofit sector, do your best to avoid debt (student loans, etc.) and become comfortable with a low-consumption lifestyle.

Energy & Resources Institute in New Delhi

Caroline Howe, caroline.howe@aya.yale.edu

I'm working for The Energy & Resources Institute in New Delhi on a wide range of projects related to green building design and sustainable urban development. We're doing technical analysis and policy studies, all of which has been really incredible. I'm doing independent research on a number of different topics related to green design and barriers to implementing sustainability in India, and have met incredible people (including other Udallers) while here! If you are interested in working in any division of TERI, make sure that you speak with the head of that division to clearly come up with your goals or interests -- especially if you are interested in only working part-time or if you have your own specific research focus. Logistics in India are really difficult to sort out, so it helps to get in touch with people who are there when you're going to arrive to help ease the process.

EPA

Tara O'Hare, ohare.tara@epa.gov

I am currently working with the EPA on a voluntary program called the Green Suppliers Network which helps to make businesses more environmental through their supply chains. I am the State and Regional Coordinator for the program and spend most of my time building relationships with state and local technical assistance providers. Apply for EPA's intern program. It is a two year rotational program, which ends in a permanent position. Also, many people who applied through this process were hired by EPA through other means even though they were not chosen to participate in the Intern program specifically.

Sapna Thottathil, sapna.thottathil@gmail.com

Industrial Economics

Noelle Thomas, thomas.noelle@gmail.com

Environmental policy consultant with Industrial Economics; I applied through their website and was invited for interview. Am able to do very varied, interesting work-- Endangered Species analysis, fisheries management, financial/environmental liability cases, etc. Research organization and set up an initial phone call.

Johns Hopkins University

Melissa Kenney M.A.KenneyPHD@gmail.com

I'm a postdoc at Johns Hopkins University and the National Center for Earth-surface dynamics. I am helping design quantitative models that help with making two important environmental decisions -- stream restoration and Mississippi Delta restoration. I'm working with Ben Hobbs, Peter Wilcock, David Morig, and Nick Flores. I hope that this will provide me the launching pad to get a Professorship at a research university doing Environmental Decision Analysis in 2 years. It helps if you love school and writing!

Luna Boston

Jennifer Dziubeck, jennifer@lunaboston.com

After several years as a social investment analyst, I decided to pursue my longtime interest in fashion. I had put it off due to a fear that I would not find the work meaningful and would not be giving back to society in any way, but I am now so thankful I made the leap. I am now the Marketing/PR Manager of Luna Boston, an online handbag retailer with a boutique in Boston. While we do sell leather bags, I also spend much of my time marketing our vegan and non-leather alternatives. Making a major career change definitely was hard work taking night courses and a part-time internship (in addition to a full-time job) in order to get the experience on my resume needed to make such a switch.

New York University Sustainability Task Force

Jeremy Friedman, jeremy.friedman@nyu.edu

I'm the project coordinator for the New York University Sustainability Task Force, a body of students, faculty and staff that are directing policy and project development for the largest private university in the US. I spent several years as an undergraduate helping to organize the university and mobilize the will to create the Task Force, which has now launched more than a dozen separate programs and initiatives in the past 15 months. My job description changes every single day, I have the opportunity to work with hundreds of interesting people, and mobilize the collective resources, money, knowledge and energy of a 75,000-member global institution to work toward a sustainable future - it's an extraordinary job to have right out of college. Start a dialogue, involving as many stakeholders as possible. With limited time and resources, invest in people and in capacity-building (increasing the potential for sustained dialogue), rather than spending it on specific programs, events or environmental issues. Build long-term (NOT just tactical) coalitions between environment-minded folks and those concerned about other issues - gender rights, labor, economics, race, class, health. And really mean it when you partner, while also articulating the idea that "sustainability" is a movement that can tie all these things together!

Sierra Club

Brian Pasko, brian.pasko@gmail.com

I'm a staff attorney/lobbyist. First with the Sierra Club, now with a small national organization seeking to protect and restore the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and the Quetico-Superior Ecosystem.

South Carolina Aquarium

Megan Westmeyer megan_blythe@hotmail.com

I work for the South Carolina Aquarium, running the Sustainable Seafood Initiative - an educational program geared towards high end chefs. I heard about the job from a professor I knew when I was an undergraduate (those old contacts are useful, keep in touch!). I'm a very self-motivated person who needs little supervision and I'm fortunate that my boss has let me take the reigns for this program and I've made it fun and dynamic.

Stockholm Environment Institute

Amanda Fencel, amanda.fencel@sei-us.org

I'm a research analyst at the Stockholm Environment Institute, in the Climate and Energy research group. I've spent the past six months or so writing and researching on vulnerability and adaptation to climate change- both nationally for states like MD and internationally for countries like Ghana, Sudan, Yemen, and the UAE. I interned here the summer after I graduated from Tufts (2007) and started full-time Sept. 07.

Sunflower Solar, Boulder, CO

Darren Legge, Darren.Legge@gmail.com

I am installing solar photovoltaic panels with Sunflower Solar in Boulder, CO. I love the job and the atmosphere, and am learning quickly. Experience was the most important thing that got me in the door at Sunflower Solar. I worked part-time for 2 solar thermal companies before this job (and hated them). And even though solar thermal and solar electric have little to no overlap, my experience in the field was my most important qualification for a very competitive position.

Think New Mexico

Kristina G. Fisher, kristinagraysfisher@lycos.com

As of my graduation from law school (summer 2008) I'll be the Associate Director of Think New Mexico, a statewide think tank that researches, develops, and advocates for progressive public policies. Try to get your foot in the door by interning where you want to work; then if a job opportunity opens up, you're a known quantity and you have a good shot at it.

Thompson & Knight, Dallas, TX

Emily Witten, emilyla@gmail.com

I will be working in the Environmental Department of Thompson & Knight after I take the bar exam in July. Thompson & Knight is headquartered in Dallas, TX, and they get a lot of environmental work, because they have a strong energy law practice.

USGS

Laurel Larsen, LaurelOak@gmail.com

I just accepted a position as a research hydrologist in the National Research Program of the USGS. I will be working on national wetlands restoration projects, determining environmental flow requirements for streams, and assessing climate change impacts on aquatic ecosystems. I got the job through collaborating with USGS scientists during my PhD, bringing new ideas to the group, and being hardworking and innovative.

University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

Tyriina O'Neil tyriina@gmail.com

I am working in a research lab. We are studying the signaling transduction pathways that occur in muscles when a load is placed on them. I work with Dr. Troy Hornberger at University of Wisconsin, Madison. BS in Biochemistry, will get a PhD in Cellular Molecular Biology.

University of Texas

Corinna Kester, corinna.kester@gmail.com

I was Sustainability Coordinator at the University of Texas, so if you're looking to work in campus sustainability, I can provide my thoughts.

ON THEIR OWN...

Carbon Credit Development

Matt King, mdk1719@gmail.com

Owning a carbon credit development company, similar to EcoSecurities; however, our business plan would revolve around providing true sustainable development to local communities when developing renewable energy projects - offering robust training procedures, getting local peoples involved with management positions if they want, seeking feedback about site location and construction procedures beforehand, etc. I really believe in the good that the CDM, JI and the EU ETS can do to mitigate climate change - I think it's a trial-and-error process, and we are learning as we go along. If we don't channel investment from the global north into the developing world for clean energy development, the global south will electrify with dirty technologies that are cheaper. It's that simple, and that's why the CDM and JI have to work. Why can't you go to Oxford and/or start a carbon credit development company? I'm halfway to reaching that goal myself, and I'm just a poor ol' Kansas boy...

Consultant

Suzanne Hunt suzannehunt@huntwines.com

Yes. I am on my own right now. I am able to choose the projects I work on and the people I want to work with. It is a lot of work, but I love being able to be linked in to a variety of government, international, NGO, and private sector worlds and mix and mingle information, ideas and people from all of these.

EcoAmerica Fellow/Writer

Jared Duval, jared.duval@gmail.com

I am a writer/fellow working on a book to spark a new generational approach to achieving social change that is actually up to the task of the challenges we face and that involves open-source, non-hierarchical methods. I work part time for ecoAmerica, an innovative marketing and messaging non-profit that re-positions environmental issues in relation to people and expands the base of support for consumer and political action on environmental issues. The rest of the time I research and write!

Entrepreneur

Andrew Lee, Andrew@andrewlee.com

I'm an entrepreneur. It's a pretty great job where I wake up every morning thinking about how the world of technology will make things easier and simpler for many people.

Immediately after college, take risks. You have nothing to lose (literally). Don't take traditional paths and as a result of those experiences, you will be a wiser person for it.

Music Matters

Erick Boustead, erick.boustead@gmail.com

Touring with bands and promoting current environmental issues and policies. I feel like bands that play to 1,000's of young people a night could have a huge impact beyond providing entertainment. So far, I've worked with a company in Minneapolis called MusicMatters that works with bands to reduce their "footprint" by using alternative fuels and offsetting emissions and so on. Ideally, working in the music industry to make societal change would become a full-time job. Do a Google search on "greening the music industry" or check out www.musicmatters.net. There is also another organization in Maine doing similar work called Reverb.